



HJ0048

LRB098 13897 GRL 48431 r

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, In 2009, Governor Pat Quinn signed into law a
3 6-year, \$31 billion construction program that invests in
4 Illinois' infrastructure; the program provides for the
5 building and repairing of roads and bridges, education and
6 higher education facilities, and economic development; and

7 WHEREAS, Included in the program was \$50 million to
8 renovate the west wing of the State Capitol Building; the
9 renovation prioritized steps to make the building compliant
10 with health/life safety and Americans with Disabilities Act
11 rules and regulations, as well as asbestos removal and upgrades
12 to HVAC systems and structural elements to ensure the integrity
13 of the historic building is not compromised; and

14 WHEREAS, There is no doubt that the Capitol Building, as a
15 National Historic Landmark, should be preserved for future
16 generations; however, unnecessary expensive renovations that
17 go beyond upgrading the building's infrastructure have been
18 revealed; and

19 WHEREAS, The most outrageous expenditure is the
20 replacement of the west outside entrance glass doors to the
21 Capitol, which have been replaced by large wooden doors coated
22 with copper to match historical references to the original

1 doors of the Capitol at a cost of nearly \$670,000; and

2 WHEREAS, The State simply cannot afford to be spending
3 money on costly ornamental features in the Capitol Building,
4 especially with \$5 billion in unpaid bills at the Comptroller's
5 Office and a public pension system with nearly \$100 billion in
6 unfunded liabilities; and

7 WHEREAS, Our spending priorities must be placed on
8 restoring economic prosperity to the State of Illinois by
9 creating jobs and investing in our public education system;
10 therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
12 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
13 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we urge the Architect of the
14 Capitol to remove the new copper doors from the Capitol
15 Building's west side entrance and to auction them off or sell
16 them to the highest bidder; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That we urge the Architect of the Capitol to
18 direct the revenue from the sale of the copper doors towards
19 Illinois' public education system or to pay down unpaid bills;
20 and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be

1 presented to members of the General Assembly, Governor Pat
2 Quinn, and the Architect of the Capitol.